

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

#### **2016-17 King Mackerel Commercial Season Closure**

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the secretary of the department, by commission action on January 7, 2016, to modify the 2016-17 commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that the season for the Gulf of Mexico has been modified, the secretary hereby declares:

Effective 12:01 p.m, May 26, 2017, the commercial fishery for king mackerel in Louisiana waters, previously re-opened on May 11, 2017, will close and remain closed until 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2017, at which time the previously established 2017-18 commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel will open. Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of king mackerel by legally licensed recreational fisherman. Effective with this closure, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell king mackerel within or without Louisiana waters. Effective with this closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit within or without Louisiana waters. The prohibition on sale/purchase of king mackerel during the closure does not apply to king mackerel that were legally harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor provided appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and 56:306.6 are properly maintained.

The secretary has been notified by National Marine Fisheries Service that the commercial king mackerel season in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico closed at 12:01 p.m., May 21, 2017 and will re-open at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2017 when the previously scheduled 2017-18 commercial season for the harvest of king mackerel is scheduled to open.

Jack Montoucet  
Secretary

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